

# NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

FEBRUARY 2026



## CHUM BYCATCH TOOLKIT

# NPFMC OVERVIEW



The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council or NPFMC) is one of eight regional councils established by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) in 1976 to manage fisheries in the 200-mile Exclusive Economic Zone, 3 miles off the coast of Alaska.

The council has been outlined by the MSA to:

- Set harvest quotas
- Set prohibited species catch limits
- Set gear/season area restrictions
- Design ecosystem and habitat protections
- Develop community protections
- Construct monitoring programs
- Create limited entry access privileges

The Council manages trawling, longline, jig, pot and dredge fishermen; catcher vessels and catcher-processors in the industry; and groundfish, Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands crab, scallops, salmon bycatch, and halibut.

## THE COUNCIL

The Council is responsible for making final decisions on issues. There are 15 council members—11 voting and 4 non-voting. The people serving on the Council are made of up appointees and representatives from Alaska (9), Washington (3), and Oregon (2). Membership includes representatives from various fishing sectors and government agencies, such as the Coast Guard & USFWS. **There are currently no seats designated for tribes or tribal organizations.**



[Learn more  
about  
members](#)

## ADVISORY GROUPS



**Scientific & Statistical Committee (SSC)** - Responsible for providing recommendations to the full council with technical and scientific matters. The committee is composed of leading scientists in biology, economics, statistics, and social science.



**Advisory Panel (AP)** - Members represent major fishery sectors [catching/processing, fishermen (subsistence, commercial, sport), observers, consumers, & environmental/conservation]. They are responsible for making recommendations to the full Council.

# MEETING INFORMATION

## FEBRUARY 2-11, 2026

**SSC:** FEBRUARY 2-4

**AP:** FEBRUARY 2-7

**COUNCIL:** FEBRUARY 5-11

All meetings held at the  
**Egan Center** at 555 W. 5<sup>th</sup>  
Avenue, Anchorage, AK

Listen online on **Zoom** or  
these **YouTube** channels:



[SSC & Council](#)



[Advisory Panel](#)

NPFMC will discuss the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) on Bering Sea Chum Salmon Bycatch Management. The Council is considering five alternatives to address chum bycatch and is scheduled to receive reports and discuss them February 5-11.

At this time, they will take oral testimony. Written comments were due January 30<sup>th</sup> and can be found on the NPFMC website (where you will find NPA's comment).

Also found [here](#) are the agendas for all meetings, links to sign up for public testimony, and how to listen live.



## IMPORTANCE OF ENGAGEMENT

It is especially important that we as Indigenous people contribute in these spaces; our traditional knowledge and thousands of years of stewardship sustained us long before any current management system. Traditional knowledge must be part of the conversation. Each of us has the ability to make change, share our story and be part of creating a solution that ensures a healthy ecosystem for all communities, now and into the future. **Your voice is needed in this process.**





# DEIS OVERVIEW

# CHUM BYCATCH

Following the February 2025 meeting, a revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and Regulatory Impact Review was published. This DEIS is an analysis of the environmental impacts of proposed management measures to minimize chum bycatch in the Bering Sea pollock fishery, particularly bycatch of chum salmon of Western Alaskan origin.

A DEIS provides assessments of the environmental impacts of an action and its reasonable alternatives as well as the economic benefits and costs of the action alternatives and their distribution. This DEIS includes the following management measures in the form of alternatives:

- A limit on chum salmon bycatch
- A limit on chum salmon bycatch that would apply only during lower chum abundance
- Additional chum salmon avoidance measures managed by formal fishermen agreements; and
- A limit on chum salmon bycatch that triggers a temporary closure of an area with historically higher rates of bycatch of chum salmon from Western Alaska.

*Access the full DEIS (772 pages) using the QR code to the right.*

## Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Regulatory Impact Review

Proposed Amendment to the  
Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the  
Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Management Area

Bering Sea Chum Salmon Bycatch Management

September 2025



U.S. Department of Commerce  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
National Marine Fisheries Service



## ABBREVIATION KEY

**EIS:** Environmental Impact Statement

**PSC:** Prohibited Species Catch

**NMFS:** National Marine Fisheries Service

**CDQ:** Community Development Quota

**BSAI:** Bering Sea & Aleutian Islands

**TAC:** Total Allowable Catch

**OFL:** Overfishing Limit

**ABC:** Acceptable Biological Catch

**MSA:** Magnuson-Stevens Act

**FMP:** Fishery Management Plan

**WAK:** Western Alaska

**CWAK:** Coastal Western Alaska

**AEQ:** Adult Equivalent

**IPA:** Incentive Plan Agreement

**CP:** Catcher/processor

**CV:** Catcher vessel

# FIVE ALTERNATIVES

## ALTERNATIVE 1

**NO ACTION:** This would maintain all aspects of the current regulations of chum salmon bycatch. There are existing incentives for avoidance, but there is **no cap**.

## ALTERNATIVE 2

**OVERALL PSC LIMIT:** This would implement an overall chum salmon PSC limit during the pollock B season. This would function as a hard cap. Four options exist within this alternative. **We are supporting option 1 of 100,000.**

## ALTERNATIVE 3

**OVERALL PSC LIMIT WITH ABUNDANCE INDICES:** This is similar to alternative 2, however the overall PSC limit would only be applied if an index of WAK chum salmon abundance did not have returns above its thresholds the prior year. In years when the PSC limit did not apply, impacts would mirror status quo.

**CDQ RESERVE POOL UNDER ALTERNATIVE 2 OR 3:** This would exist outside the overall chum PSC limit. NMFS would need to be notified of their intent to fish CDQ pollock with the inshore or mothership sectors and would apportion an additional amount of chum PSC to the group from the pool.

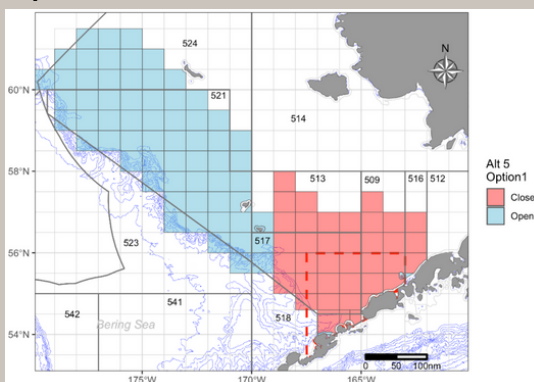
## ALTERNATIVE 4

**ADDITIONAL REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS FOR IPAs:** This would modify regulations for the salmon bycatch IPAs, adding six additional provisions requiring pollock sectors to take various measures to protect chum salmon. These can be recommended individually or as a complete package. **We are recommending all six be codified into regulations.**

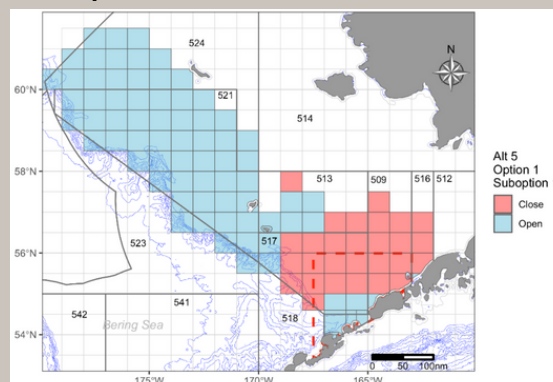
## ALTERNATIVE 5

**INSEASON CORRIDOR CAP:** This would implement a time/area closure triggered by a bycatch cap. Three different options are being considered. **We are supporting option 1 with a cap of 50,000 chum salmon.**

**Option 1:** 40 corridor stat areas



**Suboption 1:** 29 corridor stat areas



**Option 2:** 19 to 29 stat areas selected by IPAs, could change year-to-year

# HOW TO PARTICIPATE

## WRITTEN COMMENTS

The written comment period typically opens a month ahead of the meetings and closes before the meetings begin. Submit comments on the meeting page under the corresponding agenda item (in this meeting's case, C2 for chum bycatch). *The public comment period for this meeting has closed.*



## ORAL TESTIMONY

The Council takes oral testimony **in-person and remotely** at the meeting. **Sign-ups close at the end of reports for the corresponding agenda item.** Once testimony begins, the Council will go in order people signed up; if you miss you first call up to testify, you get one call back.



## VISIT THE MEETING PAGE FOR AGENDA & SIGN-UPS

**COUNCIL FEB 5-11**  
[Agenda >](#)  
[Zoom Meeting >](#)  
[Listen on YouTube](#)

**AP FEB 2-7**  
[Agenda >](#)  
[Zoom Meeting >](#)  
[Listen on YouTube](#)

**SSC FEB 2-4**  
[Agenda >](#)  
[Zoom Meeting >](#)  
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**C2** [128 comments](#)  
[Council Sign-up \(2\)](#)  
[AP Sign-up CLOSED](#)

**Chum Salmon Bycatch - Final action**

**Attachments:**

- C2 Action Memo -Uploaded: 01/28/2026 02:27 PM AKST
- C2 Bering Sea Chum Salmon Bycatch Analysis -Uploaded: 12/16/2025 12:27 AM AKST
- C2 Bering Sea Chum Salmon Bycatch Additional Information -Uploaded: 12/16/2025 12:28 AM AKST
- C2 Description of Alternatives -Uploaded: 01/28/2026 02:27 PM AKST
- C2 DEIS Comment Summary Report -Uploaded: 01/28/2026 02:42 PM AKST
- Regulations.gov Public Comments on the Chum Salmon document - Open Through 01.05.2026 (LINK) -U
- C2 Chum Salmon Outreach Report -Uploaded: 01/28/2026 02:27 PM AKST
- PPT C2 AP Presentation -Uploaded: 02/01/2026 07:26 PM AKST

To view NPFMC's public comment policy, visit [npfmc.org/public-comment-policy](https://npfmc.org/public-comment-policy)

# NOTES

## SCHEDULE

COUNCIL	THURSDAY 2/5	COUNCIL	FRIDAY 2/6	COUNCIL	SATURDAY 2/7
	8AM B REPORTS		8AM C2 CHUM SALMON		8AM SSC REPORT
AP	1PM B REPORTS C1 GOA PCOD		1PM C2 CHUM SALMON		1PM C2 CHUM SALMON
	C2 CHUM SALMON		C2 & STAFF TASKING		
COUNCIL	SUN. 2/8 - MON. 2/9	COUNCIL	TUESDAY 2/10	COUNCIL	WEDNESDAY, 2/11
	8AM C2 CHUM SALMON		8AM C2 CHUM		8AM E STAFF TASKING
COUNCIL	1PM C2 CHUM SALMON		1PM C2 CHUM C3 CI SALMON		1PM E STAFF TASKING



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## WE ARE HERE TO SUPPORT YOU

Native Peoples Action is here as a resource. If you need help signing up, drafting testimony, understanding the alternatives, or navigating this space, please feel free to reach out to us. We have staff present at the meeting.

[www.nativepeoplesaction.org](http://www.nativepeoplesaction.org)